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Empire Exhibition.

Liabilities of the Madras Government on account of the British Empire Exhibition.

71 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) what were the liabilities of this Government on account of the British Empire Exhibition on the 12th of December 1923 ;

(b) whether any subsequent liabilities have been incurred; and

(c) whether the Government have accepted the resolution of the Legislative Council on this matter ?

A.—(a) As stated in the answer to the question put by the hon. Member at the meeting of the Council on December 15th, 1923, the net liabilities on that date amounted to Rs. 2,53,038-8-6.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative. The Chairman of the Executive Committee has been informed accordingly.

Famine.

Mahazars to the Collector of Anantapur regarding remission of kists and starting of famine works.

72 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state if the Government are aware of the fact that mahazars have been sent recently to the Collector of Anantapur district praying for remission of kist and starting famine works ; and whether the Government intend to start relief works for giving facilities for drinking water in villages and in support of sanitation and irrigation ?

A.—(1) Yes.

(2) One test work was opened in the Gooty taluk on 15th January 1924, and more works will be opened if found necessary.

Floods.

Ganjām floods.

73 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that loss of life and property has occurred in Ganjām in consequence of the heavy rains in the Ganjām district ;

(b) whether they have received any official report on the subject ; and if so, to place the same on the table ; and

(c) the relief measures that they have already taken and also those that they propose to undertake ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The reports have already been published in the Madras dailies.

(c) Timber for repairing the houses damaged by the cyclone is being given to poorer ryots as far as possible. Advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act will be made where needed and remission of ryotwari assessmen :will be granted where the circumstances require it.

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Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Are we to understand that the grant of one lakh of rupees for flood relief in the last session is to form no part of the relief ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE :—" I want notice."

Forests.

Forest panchayats in Cuddapah district.

74 Q.—Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many forest panchayats are working in Cuddapah district ;

(b) whether any of them are working efficiently ; and

(c) how many reserved forests have been disafforested during the years 1922–23 and 1923–24 in the Cuddapah district ?

A.—(a) & (b) Forty-six forest panchayats were organized in the district till 30th September 1923 and of these 24 are reported to have been working well and three to be deserving of special mention.

(c) In 1922–23 one reserved forest measuring 3,390 acres and portions of three reserved forests measuring 232·95 acres and in 1923–24 portion of a reserved forest measuring 72·50 acres were disafforested in the district.

Government Press.

The staff of the Government Press.

75 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(1) whether the Government Press employees are overworked and whether the Surgeon of the First District has remarked that most of the employees are anæmic ;

(2) whether the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras, is granting leave without pay to employees of long service when they are unable to attend the office in times of epidemic, such as influenza, when they are eligible for other kinds of leave ;

(3) whether the Superintendent, Government Press, is withholding increments and promotions from those who are obliged to take leave owing to illness ;

(4) whether the Government have received memorials to the effect that, in view of the fact that reorganization has not taken place for the last thirty years, the present revised scale is most unsatisfactory, and that the present revision makes no distinction between skilled and unskilled labour, etc. ;

(5) if so, how many such have been received and what are the orders passed in each case ;

(6) whether the present revised scale is far below that existing in other Government Presses, and if so, whether the Government would consider the advisability of introducing uniform scales ;

(7) whether the Government have sanctioned the scheme of amalgamation of stationery and printing offices in view of economy, and if so why it has not been given effect to ;